



January 21, 2004

Grand jury charges Providence man with heroin trafficking, firearms offenses

A federal grand jury in Providence has charged **Ulises Matos**, 37, of Providence, with heroin trafficking and firearms offenses. Providence Police arrested Matos in December.

The Office of the United States Attorney, Mark R. Trouville, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Providence Police Chief Dean Esserman jointly announced a seven-count indictment, which was returned on January 15 in U.S. District Court, Providence. Matos, of 104 Miner Street, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment yesterday before Magistrate Judge Robert W. Lovegreen, who ordered him detained.

The indictment charges Matos with two counts of distributing heroin – once on November 25 and again on December 10. It charges him with one count of possessing with intent to distribute heroin within 1,000 feet of a school and possessing cocaine, both on December 10. It also charges him with being a felon in possession of two firearms, possessing a firearm with an altered or obliterated serial number, and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, all on December 10.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Upon conviction, the statutory maximum penalty for the offenses charged in the indictment are: distributing heroin and heroin-trafficking within 1,000 feet of a school – 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine; possessing cocaine – one year imprisonment and a

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\$100,000 fine; being a felon in possession of a firearm – 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; possessing a firearm with an altered or obliterated serial number – five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense – a minimum of five years imprisonment, consecutive to any other sentence imposed, and a maximum of life imprisonment plus a \$250,000 fine.

Exact sentencing for any defendant convicted would be determined on the basis of federal sentencing guidelines, which take into account such factors as the specific nature and impact of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

Providence Police and the **Drug Enforcement Administration** investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth P. Madden is prosecuting it.

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